

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 2, 6, 13, and 14 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 13-15 are pending. Claims 2, 9, 11, and 12 are canceled by this reply, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended by this reply to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 2. Claim 4 is amended to correct antecedent basis issues. Claims 13 and 14 are amended to correct claim dependencies with respect to now canceled claim 2. No new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 15

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2004/0260760 ("Curnyn") in view of US Pub. No. 2003/0140769 ("Davis"). Claim 9 is canceled by this reply, thus this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 9. With respect to the

remaining claims, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 is now allowable. Dependent claims 3-4, 8, and 15 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly this rejection is now moot.

Claims 11 and 12

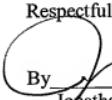
Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2004/0043020 ("Lipsanen") in view of Davis. Claims 11 and 12 are canceled by this reply; thus, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17250/008001).

Dated: December 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
909 Fannin Street, Suite 3500
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant